

The Refuge

Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge was established in 2000 primarily to conserve, restore, and manage native forested wetland habitats for migratory birds, aquatic resources, and endangered and threatened plants and animals. The refuge is located along the Mississippi River about 30 miles north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The habitat consists of bottomland hardwood forests and cypress/tupelo swamps, which are inundated by the Mississippi River each year. The refuge is known for its numerous old growth cypress trees, many of which are over 1,000 years old.

Access to the refuge is limited during late winter/spring due to nearly annual flooding by the Mississippi River. To assist refuge visitors, the refuge boundary is marked with white refuge boundary signs and yellow boundary paint. Markings are located at both eye level and up to about 15 feet high. It is the responsibility of the visitor to recognize these markings and to avoid trespassing onto private property adjacent to the refuge.

Because the refuge is still in an active acquisition phase, some boundaries were not known at the time this brochure was printed. Boundaries marked on the enclosed map were created based on presumed refuge ownership and are not necessarily reflective of actual boundary lines during the 2002/2003 hunting season. Prior to hunting season, refer to maps at the refuge office or entrance kiosk for actual boundary lines.

General Regulations

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by refuge officers. To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Cat Island, please take the time to become familiar with the following regulations.

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to protect the sportsman as well as wildlife populations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting and fishing on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable state regulations subject to the following regulations.

The refuge is open to public access during daylight hours only (5:00 am to one hour after sunset).

Special arrangements can be made to accommodate persons with bona fide disabilities by contacting the refuge office.

Weapons and Ammunition

Firearms, archery tackle, and crossbows are permitted on the refuge only during designated refuge hunts.

Firearms carried in vehicles or boats must be unloaded AND encased or dismantled. Firearms carried on ATV's must be unloaded. Loaded is defined as shells in gun or caps on muzzleloader. Archery tackle and crossbows must be uncocked with arrow unnoocked from string.

Only .22 caliber rimfire rifles and shotguns are permitted except during the muzzleloader and gun deer hunts. Handguns are not permitted.

Possession of shot larger than that legal for waterfowl hunting is prohibited. Only nontoxic shot is permitted. Use or possession of lead shot is prohibited on the refuge.

Exceptions

During quota gun and muzzleloader deer hunts, lead ammunition legal for taking deer may be used.

Small game, furbearers, raccoon, feral hogs, beaver, nutria, and coyotes may be hunted with .22 caliber rimfire lead ammunition during open seasons.

Permits

When signed and in your possession, the permit on the front of this brochure serves as your permit for all refuge hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. Additional refuge permits are required for deer quota hunts.

Commercial Activities

Refuge regulations require anyone engaged in a commercial activity (fishing, hunting, etc.) to first obtain a refuge special use permit. Anyone planning to pursue a commercial activity on refuge land, lakes, bayous or waters are advised to contact the refuge manager for information on permitted commercial activities and special use permits.

To Apply for Quota Hunt Permits

Print or type your name, address, phone number and birth date on one side of a 3x5 index card or standard postcard.

Indicate the hunt (muzzleloader or gun) for which you are applying. A separate card must be filled out for each hunt. Only one entry per person or group.

To apply as a group (maximum of five hunters per group), list required information for all applicants on the same card.

Return completed cards to refuge office (P O. Box 1936 St. Francisville, LA 70775) by close of business (4:00 pm) on August 16, 2002, for both muzzleloader and gun deer hunts. Duplicate, unclear or incomplete cards will not be considered.

Applicants will be selected via random drawing and will be notified by September 20, 2002 for both deer quota hunts. Selected individuals will be required to send a cashier's check or money order for \$12.50 to receive a permit (no personal checks accepted).

Permits are non-transferrable and must be in the hunter's possession at all times while on the refuge during the permitted hunt. Only hunters with valid quota permits are permitted in the hunt area during quota hunts.

Motorized Vehicles

All motorized vehicles are restricted to roads that are delineated on refuge map. Exceptions: Standard manufacturer's high flotation all-terrain vehicles or ATV's (3 and 4-wheelers) with a maximum tire pressure of 7 psi as indicated on tire by manufacturer, and one inch maximum tire lug height, are permitted only on trails designated by ATV signs. All other Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries state regulations governing ATV size, weight and wheel size are in effect on the refuge.

ATV trails may be different than delineated on the map in this brochure. Designated ATV trails will be marked with signs on the refuge. ATV trails are open from September 7, 2002 through the last day of rabbit season.

ATV's are allowed only for wildlife-dependent activities. The maximum legal speed for any land vehicle is 25 mph.

Specific Hunting Regulations

State bag limits apply unless otherwise specified. The only seasons open are those listed in this brochure.

Hunting is permitted only in designated areas during dates shown in brochure.

Hunters under 16 years of age must possess proof of completion of an approved Hunter Safety Course and be accompanied (in sight and in normal voice contact) at all times by an adult 21 years old or older. Each adult must have a refuge permit and can supervise only one youth during deer hunts and not more than two youths during all other hunts.

Archery hunters (regardless of age) must possess proof of completion of the International Bowhunter Education Course.

All hunters must sign in at refuge check station upon entering and leaving refuge.

Harvest records are vital to the management of refuge wildlife resources. Please help us to better manage your refuge by reporting your game harvest at the check station after each hunt. Hunters are asked to report harvests made during times of high water by calling or stopping by refuge office (225/635 4753).

Waterfowl, small game and archery hunting is prohibited during refuge quota muzzleloader and gun deer hunts.

All deer taken during quota hunts must be checked at the refuge check station on same day killed.

Only portable deer stands may be used. Deer stands must have the owner's name, address and phone number clearly printed on the stand. Stands may be erected two days before each hunt and must be removed within two days after each hunt.

Only temporary waterfowl hunting blinds are allowed. Blinds and decoys must be removed daily.

Beaver, feral hogs, nutria, raccoon and coyote may be taken incidental to any refuge hunt with weapons legal for that hunt until the daily bag limit of game is taken. Hunting is permitted during daylight hours only. Hunting any wildlife other than migratory birds, squirrel and rabbit with dogs is prohibited.

Hunting with recognized pointer/retriever dogs during migratory bird seasons, and recognized rabbit and squirrel dogs during rabbit and squirrel seasons is permissible from January 6 - February 10, 2003.

Up to two dogs per hunting party are permitted for squirrel hunting. Only beagles that do not exceed 15 inches at front shoulders may be use for rabbit hunting. All dogs must be collared with owners name and phone number. **Use of dogs to trail wounded deer is prohibited.**

Sport Fishing Regulations

Fishing is permitted on the refuge throughout the year during daylight hours only. **No commercial activity is permitted.**

Anglers may harvest any fish species on the refuge that is permitted by State regulations. State fish bag and size limits apply.

Appropriate State licenses and State recreational gear licenses are required.

Use of gear or equipment other than hook and line to catch bait fish is prohibited.

Recreational crawfishing is permitted on the refuge with either traps or nets from April 1-July 31, 2003. The harvest limit is 100 pounds per vehicle or boat per day. **All traps and nets must be attended at all times and may not be left on the refuge overnight.** No commercial crawfishing is permitted on the refuge.

The minimum mesh size for crawfish **traps** must be a hexagon of three-quarters by eleven-sixteenths of one inch (measured from wire to wire, not including coating). A State recreational gear license is required in addition to other State licensing requirements to harvest crawfish with traps on the refuge. Traps (including all traps in possession of the angler) must be marked with a waterproof tag with the name and State recreational gear license number of the fisherman legibly printed on the tag.

Crawfish **nets** are permitted on the refuge and require no additional licenses other than a basic State fishing license.

No slat traps or hoop nets are permitted on the refuge.

The use of trotlines and yo-yo's is permitted. The ends of trotlines must consist of a length of cotton line that extends from the points of attachment into the water. Yo-yo's must be attended (within sight) at all times.

Boats may not be left on the refuge overnight.

Airboats are prohibited.

Possession of cleaned or processed fish on the refuge is prohibited.

No harvest of frogs or turtles is permitted on the refuge.

Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited on Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge:

Taking wildlife or plants (including cutting trees or brush) other than specified in this brochure

Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting or operating an ATV

Littering

Camping /overnight parking

Target practice

Baiting or hunting over bait or salt

Hunting within 100 feet of any designated road, ATV or hiking trail, or designated public use facility such as kiosks

Marking trails with tape, paper, paint, etc., and/or possession of flagging tape

Trapping

Riding horses or mules

Possession of saws, saw blades, and/or machetes

Fires

Spot-lighting - artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife

Man-drives for deer or feral hogs

Frogging

Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts

Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles or ATV

Driving a nail, spike or other metal object into a tree, or hunting from any tree in which such an object has been driven Using climbing spikes

Parking along roads or in areas that are not designated as parking areas



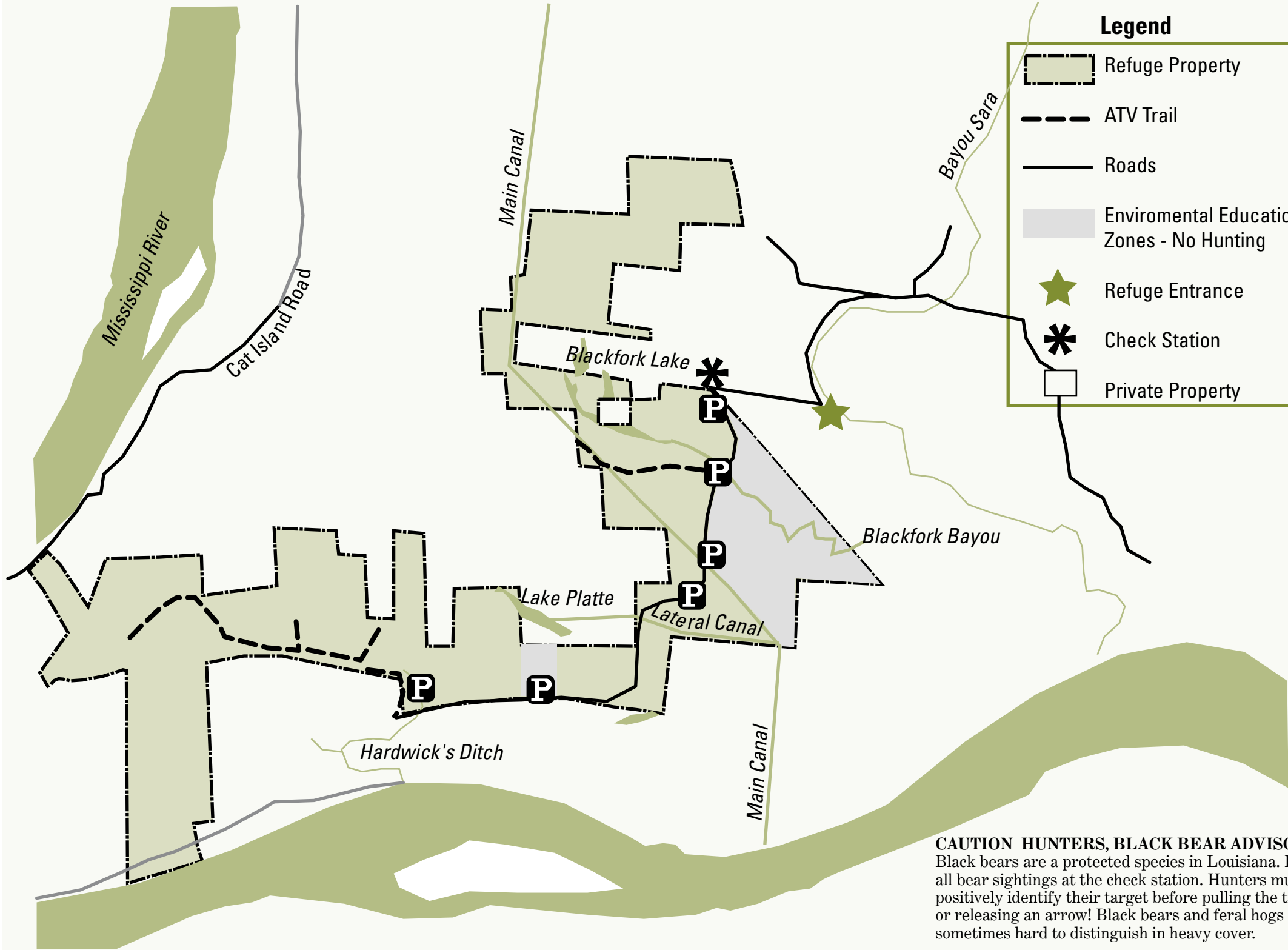
This sign delineates the refuge boundary. Entry is permitted only for authorized uses (hunting, fishing, sightseeing, etc.) in accordance with refuge regulations.



This area is closed to all entry. No hunting, fishing or sightseeing is permitted. No roads or trails are open to the public.



This area is closed to all hunting. Firearms and archery equipment are strictly prohibited.



CAUTION HUNTERS, BLACK BEAR ADVISORY!
Black bears are a protected species in Louisiana. Report all bear sightings at the check station. Hunters must positively identify their target before pulling the trigger or releasing an arrow! Black bears and feral hogs are sometimes hard to distinguish in heavy cover.

2002-2003 Hunting Seasons		Season Dates
Squirrel and Rabbit	State Season	
Deer-Archery	State Season	
Deer-Muzzleloader	November 9 - 10, 2002	
Deer-Gun	November 23 - 24, 2002	
Waterfowl	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday until noon during State waterfowl season	
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day	State Zone Date	
Woodcock	State Season	

Specific Regulations
Closed during muzzleloader and gun deer hunts. Recognized squirrel and rabbit dogs permitted January 6 - February 10, 2003.
One, either-sex deer per day. Closed during muzzleloader and gun deer quota hunts.
Special Quota Permit Required - One, either-sex deer per hunt. Hunter orange (hat and vest) required. Hunters must check in and out at a manned check station.
Special Quota Permit Required - One, either-sex deer per hunt. Hunter orange (hat and vest) required. Hunters must check in and out at a manned check station.
Closed during muzzleloader and gun deer hunts.
Boats, blinds, and decoys must be removed daily. Non-toxic shot only. Possession of lead shot prohibited. Only recognized retriever breeds permitted.
All refuge waterfowl hunting regulations apply.
Closed during muzzleloader and gun deer hunts. Non-toxic shot required. Only recognized bird dog breeds permitted.

Cat Island
National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 1936
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775
225/635 4753

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://southeast.fws.gov>

June 2002



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cat Island

National Wildlife Refuge
Hunting and Fishing
Regulations - 2002-2003

CELEBRATING A
CENTURY
of CONSERVATION

1903 - 2003

**Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge
Hunting and Fishing Permit 2002-2003**
When signed and in your possession, this brochure serves as your permit for all refuge hunts (except quota hunts) and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Signature (Permit is non-transferable)